

“Partners in Progress”
**The State of Connecticut
Re-entry Strategy**

CT Criminal Justice Cross-Training
Conference

August 20, 2010



Presenters

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

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COURT SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

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BRIDGEPORT REENTRY ROUNDTABLE

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Executive Summary / Introduction

- **Collaboration**
 - offenders
 - families
 - criminal justice agencies
 - community partners
- **All branches of government**
 - legislative
 - executive
 - judicial

History

- **Public Acts**
 - 04-234
 - 05-249
 - 06-193
 - 08-1
- CJPAC incorporated PJOC to assist in fulfilling mission of CJPAC
- CJPAC responsible for re-entry strategy report

Purpose

- Enhance public safety
- Integrated, collaborative, cost-effective approach
- Manage an offender's transition from incarceration to the community
- Provide necessary support and intervention
- Foster a culture change

Success =

An offender's transition from incarceration dependency to responsible community self-sufficiency

Guiding Principles

**A principle is a general law which gives
action;
a fundamental truth as a basis of
reasoning**

Re-entry Goals

- Public Safety / Recidivism
- Population Management
- Organizational / Cultural Change
- Risk Reduction Case Management
- Integrated Treatment
- Employment
- Capacity of Local Communities
- Community Corrections
- Data and Evaluation

Current Practices

- Arrest / Sentence
- Intake / Assessment
- Programs
- Transition
- Discharge

Partnerships for a Successful Strategy

- State Agencies
- Legislative Committees & Commissions
- Community
- Non-Profits
- Federal Government

Building on Successes

- **Public Safety / Reduce Recidivism**
 - ❑ Criminal justice partners working together
- **Correctional Population Management**
 - ❑ Ongoing collaborative efforts of DOC and Parole
 - ❑ Objective classification system
 - ❑ Collaboration of DOC and CSSD with Jail Re-interview program

Building on Successes, cont.

- **Organizational / Cultural Change**
 - ❑ Public Policy
 - ❑ Re-entry Task Force
- **Risk Reduction Case Management**
 - ❑ Case Management / Continuum of Care
- **Integrated Treatment**
 - ❑ Holistic care increasing efficiencies / effectiveness

Building on Successes, cont.

- **Employment**
 - ❑ Employment Opportunities for Offenders
- **Capacity of Local Communities**
 - ❑ Federal Funding Opportunities

Building on Successes, cont.

- **Community Corrections**

- Continue to build and enhance partnerships and collaborations – community partners and local governments

- **Data and Evaluation**

- RBA
- Research and Evaluation Practices

Measures of Success

- Rates of recidivism and community revictimization
- Number of inmates eligible for release on parole, transitional supervision, probation or any other release program
- Number of inmates who make the transition from incarceration to the community in compliance with a discharge plan

Measures of Success, cont.

- Prison bed capacity ratios
- Adequacy of the network of community-based treatment, vocational, educational, supervision and other services and programs
- Reinvestment of any savings achieved through a reduction in prison population into re-entry and community-based services and programs

Corrections to the Community Department of Correction

- **Reentry Planning Begins Upon Intake**
 - Offender Management Plan

OFFENDER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Corrections to the Community

Intake / Assessment

- Admissions
- Offender Accountability Plan
- Correctional Facilities
 1. Classification
 2. Treatment, Programs and Services
 3. Community Release Outlook
 4. Discharge Planning

Intake / Assessment

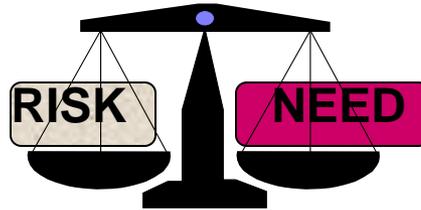
- **ADMISSIONS**

- Initial health, mental health screening within 24 hours
- Initial Risk and Treatment Needs Assessment
- Housing assignment based on management and treatment needs
- Orientation

ASSESSMENT

- **TREATMENT PROGRAM ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT (TPAI)**
- **CLASSIFICATION**
 - RISK**
 - NEED**

CLASSIFICATION SCORES



RISK SCORES

- Escape
- Severity of Offense
- Violence History
- Length of Confinement
- Detainers
- Security Risk Group
- Disciplinary History

NEED SCORES

- Medical
- Mental Health
- Education
- Alcohol/Drug
- Vocational
- Sex Offender Treatment
- Community Resource Need

**DOC's
Parole and Community
Services Division**

August 2010

Probation vs. Parole

Probation

- Ordered by a judge at sentencing in lieu a term of incarceration
- Carries a suspended sentence
- Supervised by CSSD's probation officers
- Violation involved new charge of VOP (53a-32)

Parole

- Granted by the BOPP as an early release from a term of incarceration
- Special parole follows incarceration (judge)
- Supervised by DOC's P&CS Division's parole officers
- Violators appear before the BOPP for a revocation hearing

Parole & Community Services Mission:

The Parole and Community Services Division shall enhance public safety by providing offenders opportunities to successfully reintegrate into the community and be productive, accountable members of society

District Offices / Specialized Units

- Bridgeport
- Hartford
- New Haven
- Norwich/New London
- Waterbury
- Central Intake Unit
- Residential Unit
- Special Management Unit
- Mental Health Unit
- Fugitive Unit

Goals/Objectives:

- Supervise and enforce all conditions imposed on offenders released to Discretionary Parole, Special Parole, Transfer Parole, Transitional Placement, Transitional Supervision, Community Release, and Reentry Furlough
- Enforce the provisions of the Interstate Compact Agreement for offenders transferred from other jurisdictions in accordance with CGS Section 54-133

Conditions

- **Standard:** *Contact requirements, employment & address, authorization prior to leaving state, obey all laws, no weapons, toxicology testing, etc...*
- **Special/Individual:** *No contact (victim, co-defendant), GPS/EMP, no driving, problem sexual behavior treatment, etc.*

Goals/Objectives:

- Employ evidence-based practices, emergent technology, and innovation to ensure effective supervision, service delivery, and accountability

GPS, EMP, cognitive behavioral therapy-based programs

Goals/Objectives:

- Provide a range of social, substance abuse, and support services through contracted residential and non-residential providers and collaboration with other state, municipal, and private agencies

Specialized units, treatment programs (substance abuse, family counseling, anger management, problem sexual behavior, mental health, TOP...)

Case Management Process:

- Pre-Release Investigations
- Assessment
- Program Referrals
- Office, Field, and Collateral Contacts
- Incremental Sanctions (TOP)
- Collaboration
- Violation
- Completion/Discharge



Court Support Services Division

- Probation Transitions Program
- Parole To Probation

The Mission of CSSD is to provide effective support services within the Judicial Branch by working collaboratively with system stakeholders to promote compliance with court orders and instill positive change in individuals, families and communities

The Vision of CSSD is to provide effective services by working in collaboration with other agencies to support the Judicial Branch in providing a high quality of justice, enhancing public safety and assisting individuals and families through effective interventions



Probation Transition Program

- Eligibility and Assessment
- PTP Supervision Placement Prioritization
- PTP Supervision
- Transition to Regular Probation Caseload
- Staff with Unit Supervisor



Parole to Probation

- SPLIT SENTENCE OFFICER to review
“Clients Released from Parole Officers by
GA Report”
- Parole or TS Officer to be contacted
- Intake appointment scheduled prior to
discharge from DOC custody



Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice

- A multi-year evaluation of the Probation Transition Program commenced in February 2007
- The study was completed and published on June 15, 2010



- In effect, it was determined that the Probation Transition Program reduced the number of incarcerations resulting from technical violations by 55-65 percent
- Researchers concluded that probation specialized program initiatives were able to exceed the legislative mandate imposed in Public Act 04-234 (which called for a 20% reduction in incarcerations from technical violation)

Bridgeport Reentry Collaborative

- How Did It Start
- Meets for the first time in May 2007
- Born of conversation between Career Resources, Inc and Family Reentry, Inc.
- Broad-based connections between providers

Who We Are

- Now more than 15 different agencies who want to work together
- Principal agencies
 - Career Resources
 - Family Reentry
 - CO-OP Center/The Council of Churches
 - The Center for Women and Families
 - Isaiah 61:1
 - Malta Prison Volunteers
 - CT Dept. of Labor
 - CT Legal Services
 - Community Solutions

What Have We Done

- Bridgeport Reentry Resource Guide
- BHA Reentry Initiative
- Ban the Box
- Hire Me Billboard
- The Prodigal Project Video
(www.mpvct.org)
- Two Federal Companion Grants
(DOJ/DOL)

Bridgeport ReEntry Resource Guide



Bridgeport
ReEntry Collaborative
June 2009



I DID MY TIME . . .

NOW ALL I WANT IS A FAIR CHANCE AT A DECENT JOB

HIRE ME

JOB FAIR

March 18th • Housatonic Community College

Bridgeport Reentry Collaborative • bridgeport.reentry.collaborative@gmail.com

What Have We Learned

- Critical importance of:
- Pre-Release Coordination matched with appropriate Post-Release Services
- Employment Services
- Mentoring

Where Do We Need to Go

"No Wrong Door"

Broadening the Network through connections with:

Religious Community (Post Release)

Business Community

Police

Community Advocates

Continuum of Care

Education groups

Victim's Advocates

Restorative Justice efforts

Questions???